Xn

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/776,800	02/11/2004	Gregory Allen Morris		4881

7590 05/16/2005

GREGORY A. MORRIS
10193 Ambassador Ave.
San Diego, CA 92126

EXAMINER	
KING, ANITA M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3632	

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/776,800	MORRIS, GREGORY ALLEN
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Anita M. King	3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *04 January 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-13* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *11-13* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *11 February 2004* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *2/11/04*.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

ts

AK

This is the second office action for application number 10/776,800, Device for Hanging Common Zipper Lock-type Storage Bags, filed on February 11, 2004. Pending claims 1-13.

Mini Lecture

Information to Pro Se Inventors
Regarding responses to Office Actions

INTRODUCTION

An examination of this application reveals that applicant may be unfamiliar with patent prosecuting procedure. While an inventor may prosecute the application, lack of skill in this field usually acts as a liability in affording the maximum protection for the invention disclosed.

Applicant is advised to secure the services of a registered patent attorney or agent to prosecute the application. The value of a patent is largely dependent upon skillful preparation and prosecution. Although the services of a registered patent attorney or agent is advised, the Office cannot aid in selecting an attorney or agent. 37 C.F.R. § 1.31; M.P.E.P. § 401. However, Applicant is encouraged to peruse the publication entitled "Attorneys and Agents Registered to Practice Before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office." This publication is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

DISCUSSION

The following discussion provides general information for Applicant's benefit regarding an applicant's response, new matter, the period for response, and the certificate of mailing.

I. Response by Applicant

The applicant MUST respond to every ground of rejection and objection made in an Office action. 37 C.F.R. § 1.111. The applicant will generally present arguments that the examiner's rejections or objections were made in error; or amend the specification, drawings,

and/or claims to overcome the rejection or objection. Amendments to the application may not introduce new matter. 37 C.F.R. § 1.118.

Unless the Office explicitly requests the return of a paper, all papers mailed to the applicant are intended to be kept by the applicant for his own records. The response must be signed by ALL applicants. 37 C.F.R. § 1.33.

A. Arguments

Should the applicant disagree with the examiner's position, the applicant should distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the examiner's action with arguments under the heading "Remarks" in the response. 37 C.F.R. § 1.111. In addition, the applicant must discuss the references cited by the examiner that explain how the claims avoid the references or patentably distinguish from them. Id.

B. Amendments to the Specification

Amendments to the specification, including the abstract, must be made by presenting a replacement paragraph or section or abstract marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version. An accompanying clean version is not required and should not be presented. Newly added paragraphs or sections, including a new abstract (instead of a replacement abstract), must not be underlined. A replacement or new abstract must be submitted on a separate sheet, 37 CFR 1.72. If a substitute specification is being submitted to incorporate extensive amendments, both a clean version (which will be entered) and a marked up version must be submitted as per 37 CFR 1.125.

The changes in any replacement paragraph or section, or substitute specification must be shown by underlining (for added matter) or strikethrough (for deleted matter) with 2 exceptions: (1) for ***deletion of fiver characters or fewer, double brackets may be used (e.g., [[error]]); and (2) if strikethrough cannot be easily perceived (e.g., deletion of the number "4" or certain punctuation marks), double brackets must be used (e.g., [[4]]). As an alternative to using double brackets, however, extra portions of text may be included and after being deleted, all in strikethrough, followed by including and underlining the extra text with the desired change*** *(e.g., ~~number 4 as~~ number 14 as)*.

C. Amendments to the Claims

Each amendment document that includes a change to an existing claim, cancellation of a claim or a submission of a new claim **must include a complete listing** of all claims in the application. After each claim number in the listing, the status must be indicated in a parenthetical expression, and **the text of each pending claim** (with markings to show current changes) must be presented. The claims in the listing will replace all prior claims in the application.

(1) The current status of the all the claims in the application, including any previously canceled, not entered or withdrawn claims, must be given in a parenthetical expression following the claim number using only one of ***(previously presented) and (not entered).*** The text of all pending claims, ***including withdrawn claims,*** must be submitted each time any claim is amended. Canceled ***and not entered*** claims must be indicated by only the claim number and status, without presenting the text of the claims.

(2) The text of all claims being currently amended must be presented in the claim listing with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to the immediate prior version. The changes in any amended claim must be shown by underlining (for added mater) or strikethrough (for deleted matter) with 2 exceptions: (1) for ***deletion of five characters or fewer, double brackets may be used (e.g., [[error]]); and (2) if strikethrough cannot be easily perceived (e.g., deletion of the number "4" or certain punctuation marks), double brackets must be used (e.g., [[4]]). As an alternative to using double brackets, however, extra portions of text may be included before and after text being deleted, all in strikethrough, followed by including and underlining the extra text with the desired change*** (*e.g., ~~number 4 as~~ number 14 as*). An accompanying clean version is not required and should not be presented. Only claims of the status "currently amended," and "withdrawn" that are being amended, may include markings.

(3) The text of pending claims not being currently amended, ***including withdrawn claims,*** must be presented in the claim listing in clean version, i.e., without any markings. Any claim text presented in clean version will constitute an assertion that it has not been changed relative to the immediate prior version except to omit markings that may have been presented in the immediate prior version of the claims.

(4) A claim being canceled must be listed in the claim listing with the status identifier "canceled"; the text of the claim must not be presented. Providing an instruction to cancel is optional.

(5) Any claims added by amendment must be presented in the claim listing with the status identifier "(new)"; the text of the claim must not be underlined.

(6) All of the claims in the claim listing must be presented in ascending numerical order. Consecutive canceled, or not entered, claims may be aggregated into one statement (e.g., Claims 1-5 (canceled)).

D. Drawing Corrections

Drawing changes must be made by presenting replacement figures which incorporate the desired changes and which comply with 37 CFR 1.84. An explanation of the changes made must be presented either in the drawing amendments, or remarks section of the amendment, ***and may be accompanied by a marked-up copy of one or more of the figures being amendment, with annotations.*** Any replacement drawing sheet must ***be identified in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet"*** and include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even though only one figure may be amended. ***Any marked-up (annotated) copy showing changes must be labeled "Annotated Sheet Showing Changes" and accompany the replacement sheet as an appendix to the amendment***. The figure or figure number of the amended drawings(s) must **not** be labeled as "amended." If the changes to the drawing figure(s) are not accepted by the examiner, applicant will be notified of any required corrective action in the next Office action. No further drawing submission will be required, unless applicant is notified.

II. New Matter

As previously mentioned, no amendment to the specification, claims, or drawings may introduce new matter. 37 C.F.R. § 1.118. "New matter" constitutes any material which meets the following criteria:

> (1) It is added to the disclosure (either the specification, the claims, or the drawings) after the filing date of the application, and
>
> (2) It contains new information which is neither included nor implied in the original version of the disclosure. This includes the addition of physical properties, new uses, etc.

See M.P.E.P. § 706.03(o).

III. Period For Response

An Office action generally sets a time period in which the applicant has to respond to every rejection and objection (called a shortened statutory period). 37 C.F.R. § 1.134. This time period for response appears on the cover letter (form PTO-326) of the Office action. Usually, a 3 month shortened statutory period is set. M.P.E.P. § 710.02(b). The applicant's response must be received within the time period listed on the cover letter, or the application will be held abandoned. 37 C.F.R. § 1.135.

Currently, the Office allows the time period for response to be extended past the shortened statutory period up to a maximum of 6 months (called the maximum 6 month statutory period). In order to extend the period of response past the shortened statutory period, a request for an extension of time and payment of the appropriate fee is required. 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The request must state that it is for "an extension of the period for response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)." The following table lists the required fees for extensions of the shortened statutory period:

Months Past Response Date	Fee Due (Small / Large Entity)
Response within Time Allowed	None / None
1	$60/ $120
2	$225/ $450
3	$510/ $1,020
4	$795/ $1,590
5	$1,080/ $2,160

It is important to note that no extension of time is permitted that extends the period for response past the maximum 6 month statutory period. Responses received after the maximum 6 month statutory period will be held abandoned. 37 C.F.R. § 1.135.

Three examples are provided:

Example 1:

A complete response is filed four months and one day after the mailing date of an Office action. The Office action sets a 3 month shortened statutory period for response. The response must be accompanied by a fee in the amount of $225 (for a small entity; $450 for a large entity) for a 2 month extension of time. The response must also contain a statement requesting "an extension of the period for response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)."

Example 2:

A complete response is filed five months and one day after the mailing date of an Office action. The Office action sets a 2 month shortened statutory period for response. The response must be accompanied by a fee in the amount of $795 (for a small entity; $1,590 for

a large entity) for a 4 month extension of time. The response must also contain a statement requesting "an extension of the period for response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)."

Example 3:

A complete response is filed six months and one day after the mailing date of an Office action. The Office action sets a 3 month shortened statutory period for response. The response is held abandoned even if accompanied by a fee and a request for an extension of time. Remember, extensions of time may not be used to extend the period for response past the maximum 6 month statutory period. 37 C.F.R. § 1.135.

IV. Certificates of Mailing or Transmission

It appears that the applicant in this application is a *pro se* applicant (an inventor filing the application alone without the benefit of a Patent Attorney or Agent). Applicant may not be aware of the preferred methods of ensuring timely filing of responses to communications from the Office and may wish to consider using the Certificate of Mailing or the Certificate of Transmission procedures outlined below.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

To ensure that the Applicant's response is considered timely filed, it is advisable to include a "Certificate of Mailing" on at least one page (preferably on the first page) of the response. This "Certificate" should consist of the following statement:

> I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231" on _(Date of Deposit).
> (Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate)
>
> (Signature)

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

Alternatively, if the applicant wishes to respond by facsimile rather than by mail, another method to ensure that the Applicant's response is considered timely filed, is to include a

“certificate of transmission” on at least one page (preferably on the first page) of the response. This method should be used by foreign applicants without access to the U.S. Postal Service. This “certificate” should consist of the following statement:

> I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) ______-______ (date).
> (Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate)
>
> (Signature)

These "Certificates" may appear anywhere on the page, and may be handwritten or typed. They MUST be signed, and the date must be the actual date on which it is mailed or transmitted. For the purpose of calculating extensions of time, the date shown on the certificate will be construed as the date on which the paper was received by the Office, regardless of the date of the U.S. Postal Service actually delivers the response, or the fax is “date-stamped” in. In this way, postal or transmission delays do not affect the extension-of-time fee.

In the event that a communication is not received by the Office, applicant's submission of a copy of thee previously mailed or transmitted correspondence showing the **originally** signed Certificate of Mailing or Transmission Statement thereon, along with a statement from the person signing the statement which attests to the timely mailing or transmitting of the correspondence, would be sufficient evidence to entitle the applicant to the mailing or transmission date of the correspondence as listed on the Certificate of Mailing or Transmission, respectively.

NOTICE TO APPLICANT: In the case of lost or late response the use of other "receipt producing" forms of mailing a correspondence to the Patent Office, such as Certified Mail, or private shippers such as FedEx, **WILL NOT** result in the applicant getting the benefit of the

mailing date on such receipts. These receipts are not considered to be acceptable evidence since there is nothing to "tie-in" the receipt with the particular document allegedly submitted.

Furthermore, Applicant is encouraged to include with the response a self addressed and stamped postcard completely itemizing the papers submitted with applicant's response. *See* M.P.E.P. § 503. When the response is received by the Office, the postcard is date-stamped and returned to the applicant. *Id.* This is an applicant's best indication of the date the Office received the response and if all of the papers submitted have been received.

CONCLUSION AND CAVEAT

The above discussion is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all the topics that may be relevant to this particular Application. The information was provided to familiarize Applicant with the portions of a response that have historically caused problems for pro se inventors.

Furthermore, even if Applicant's response is in accordance with the information provided above, there is no guarantee that every requirement of the patent laws (35 U.S.C. §§ 1-376), patent rules (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.1-150.6), and Patent Office policy (M.P.E.P. §§ 101-2591) has been met. The adequacy of a response is determined on a case-by-case basis. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.111; M.P.E.P. § 714.02.

Detailed Action

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of species I (Figs. 1-4 and 7) in the reply filed on January 4, 2005 is acknowledged.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: "500". Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: "703," "702," "704," and "206". Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and

informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure does not commence on a separate sheet in accordance with 37 CFR 1.52(b)(4). A new abstract of the disclosure is required and must be presented on a separate sheet, apart from any other text.

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

(a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
(b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
(c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
(d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT
(e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
(f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
(1) Field of the Invention.
(2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
(g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
(h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
(i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
(j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).

(k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
(l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: the terms "C-shaped channel" in claim 1, "a chamfer, fillet, ¼-round, flat, concave, rounded, V-shape, square, rectangular, angular shapes," in claim 2, the gap being "straight, wavy, skewed, S-shaped, zigzag-shaped, bent, crooked, diagonal, erratic, sloping, undulating," in claim 2, and "a mounting plate or multiple plates" in claim 10 should be provided for in the specification.

Claim Objections

Claims 3-5 and 8 are objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase "Any and said" in line 1 of claims 3-5 and 8 should be changed to "The hanger". Appropriate correction is required.

Claims 11-13 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to claims in the alternative only. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-10 are rejected as failing to define the invention in the manner required by 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The claim(s) are narrative in form and replete with indefinite and functional or operational language. The structure which goes to make up the device must be clearly and positively specified. The structure must be organized and correlated in such a manner as to present a complete operative device. The claim(s) must be in one sentence form only. Note the format of the claims in the patent(s) cited.

Claim 1 has ambiguous claim terminology where it is unclear whether latter recitations of originally cited terminology are intended to refer to the originally cited terms. It is unclear if "an inner channel" in line 10 is intended to refer to the original recitation of the term "an interior channel" in line 5 of the claim.

Claim 1 recites "its" in lines 7 and 9, it is not certain as to what previously recited element the term "its" is referring.

Claim 2 recites the limitation "the inner and outer edges" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Regarding claims 2, 4, 6, and 9, the phrase "or the like" renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "or the like"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

There is an inconsistency between the language in the preamble and certain portions in the body of the claims 3, 4, 5, and 8, thereby making the scope of the claims unclear. The preamble in claim 1 clearly indicates that a subcombination is being claimed, e.g., "a hanger device for holding common flexible recloseable food storage bags...." This language would lead the examiner to believe that the applicant intends to claim only the subcombination of "a hanger device," the food storage bags, the cooler or ice chest lid, and the shelf, tray, or rack being only functionally recited. This presents no problem as long as the body of the claim also refers to these elements functionally.

The problem arises when the food storage bags are positively recited within the body of the claim, such as, "the device either mounted to or molded to the underside of a cooler or ice chest lid," in claim 2; the "device either mounted to or molded to the outer or under-face of any shelf, tray, rack," in claim 4; "wherein the bags can slide in one side...," in claim 5. There is an inconsistency within the claim; the preamble indicates subcombination, while in at least one instance in the body of the claim there is a positive recital of structure indicating that the combination of a hanger device and storage bags, cooler or ice chest, or shelf, tray, or rack are being claimed. The examiner cannot be sure if applicant's intent is to claim merely the hanger device or the hanger device in combination with the storage bags, cooler or ice chest, or shelf, tray, or rack.

Applicant is required to clarify what the claims are intended to be drawn to, i.e., either the hanger device alone or the combination of the hanger device and the storage bags, cooler or ice chest, or shelf, tray, or rack. Applicant should make the language of the claim consistent with applicant's intent. In formulating a rejection on the merits, the examiner is

considering that the claims are drawn to the subcombination and the claims will be rejected accordingly. If applicant indicates by amendment that the combination claim is the intention, the language in the preamble should be made consistent with the language in the body of the claims. If the intent is to claim the subcombination, then the body of the claims must be amended to remove positive recitation of the combination.

Regarding claim 6, the phrase "such as" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,899,974 to Wear et al., hereinafter, Wear. Wear discloses a hanger device (10) capable of holding common flexible recloseable food storage bags, comprising: a modified C-shaped channel uniform in thickness and shape along its entire length in a horizontal configuration forming a rigid one-piece body having a front, a rear, a top, a bottom, a left side, a right side, an interior channel and an exterior; a gap in which the front, top and bottom are spaced apart and is uniform in width along its entire length, an outer flat surface along its entire length; wherein the inner and outer edges of the gap can tack on flat shape,

and the path of the gap can be straight; wherein the device is constructed of plastic; wherein the device can be affixed to other surfaces by utilizing adhesive (Fig. 5); and wherein the device can be affixed temporarily to a plate.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wear. Wear discloses the claimed invention except for the limitations of the device being mounted to or molded to a cooler/ice chest lid or a shelf, tray, or rack. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the device in Wear to have been mounted to a surface as shown in Fig. 5 wherein the surface is an element of a cooler/ice chest lid, shelf, tray, or rack since such a modification would not produce any unexpected results.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wear in view of U.S. Patent 5,753,495 to Kubota. Wear discloses the claimed invention except for the limitation of the device taking on various colors and glow-in-the-dark material. Kubota teaches a clip (Fig. 7) being constructed of a plastic material that can take on various colors. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the plastic material in Wear to be capable of taking on various colors

as taught by Kubota for the purpose of providing an aesthetically different hanger device that is more pleasing to the eye.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 3,350,045 to Mayers

U.S. Patent 3,600,764 to Froehlich, Jr.

U.S. Patent 3,606,507 to Williams, Jr.

U.S. Patent 3,671,004 to Cram

U.S. Patent 4,901,462 to Wrigley

U.S. Patent 4,946,065 to Goulter et al.

U.S. Patent 4,998,630 to Schwartz

U.S. Patent 5,094,414 to Eddy, Jr.

Mayers discloses an article holder supported on a vertical surface. Froehlich, Jr. discloses an article-hanging clip having a c-shaped channel. Williams, Jr. discloses a magnetic sheet holder which is open ended. Cram discloses a hanger for material in sheet form. Wrigley discloses a glow in the dark plastic luggage tag. Eddy, Jr. discloses a suspension hanger for resealable plastic bags.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anita M. King whose telephone number is (571) 272-6817. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie A. Braun can be reached on (571) 272-6815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Anita M. King
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3632

May 11, 2005